

Village Association News

With a number of new residents in the village, we wanted to both introduce and remind everyone of the Village Association's role in bringing the community together for events throughout the year. We're always looking for people to contribute to our events so please don't hesitate to step forward if you have any suggestions, ideas or skills that might be able to help us put together the events you see advertised here.

Volunteers and contributions from right across the village are always welcome. Most importantly though, we'd like to encourage all villagers to come along to our community events – you're what makes them memorable! If you'd like to know more about the Village Association then please contact Rosey on 07542 923328

*Robin Wilkes
Committee member*

Dragon Competition



This year the St. George's Day dragon competition will run from 8th - 23rd April. During this time, we hope that you will display a dragon in your garden so that it can be seen from the road. In the past, the dragons have been very diverse both in form and construction material. We celebrate this diversity. The theme this year is the royal coronation. Maybe King Charles will make an appearance! As usual, there will be cash prizes for the best dragon, the runner-up and the best children's entry. Now is the time to start planning your dragon! We are delighted to announce that the local artist Linda Benton has agreed to be this year's judge.

On Sunday 23rd April the Dragon Walk will leave from the bus shelter at 2.00pm. If you haven't seen all the dragons by then, this will be a great

opportunity. The Dragon Teas, where prizes are awarded, will take place at Woodleys from 2.30 - 4.30pm by kind permission of Robert and Hazel. Even if you didn't display a dragon, this is a great opportunity to have a cup of tea, a piece of cake and a chat with your neighbours.

If you would like more information about the St. George's Day events, especially if you are new to the village, please telephone Rosey on 07542 923328

The Coronation of King Charles III

Good News! The village association is planning a coronation party on 6th May 2023 at York Farm by kind invitation of Mrs Mary Allen and her family. Come and watch the ceremony live on a big screen – in fact, there will be two 65 inch big screens transmitting the event live. This will be followed by a hog roast (a vegetarian alternative will be available), activities for the children and, of course, a raffle. We will also be running a 'coronation cake' competition. So, nearer the time, get busy making cakes. There will be prizes for the best cake, the runner-up and the best children's entry. Judging will be based on the quality of decoration, but, be warned – the cakes will be eaten after judging!

The event will be free to residents of West Hagbourne. However, if you wish to invite extended family and/or friends, additional tickets will be available at £6.00 per head (to cover food costs). We will be distributing booking forms to every household in March. This will help us establish numbers and any dietary needs.

We would like to thank the West Hagbourne Parish Council for supporting this event.

Memorial Tree

A horse chestnut tree commemorating Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee was planted on the 4th December behind the speed limit sign near the entrance to Foxglove Lane.

Dedication speech: Thank you for coming to the planting of this horse chestnut tree which celebrates the long and steadfast service of Queen Elizabeth II to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. This tree represents our contribution to the Queen's green canopy initiative created to mark her Platinum Jubilee. We hope our tree will grow to be majestic and reign over the village tree line for 70+ years.

Keep a look out. The commemorative plaque will appear soon.

Village Christmas Tree

We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas tree erected in The Square by the Village Association. Special thanks to Isla-Grace and Summer for helping to decorate the tree and making some very beautiful decorations. Thanks also to Robert and Margaret for their excellent colouring-in of 'winter wonderland' themed pictures. I think we can all agree, the whole village looked very festive this year.

New Year Village Walk

Despite really awful weather on the 8th January 2023, eight



intrepid adventurers turned out for the New Year village walk. We left West Hagbourne along the embankment towards Upton, walked around the village and then returned home via London Road. Amazingly, the rain stopped about an hour before we set out, only to start again about 5 minutes after we returned and sat down to mulled wine and mince pies. We were very lucky!

Rosey Gardiner (Chair)

Trees & Carols



Photo courtesy of Drone Motion

The brightly lit Christmas trees in front gardens around the village and the Village Association tree which stood at The Square, were a cheerful and much appreciated sight over the festive period. Thanks to all of you who bought one of these Festival trees and to those who braved a very cold, frosty, winter's afternoon on 11th December to join us at Manor Farm for Carols in the Farmyard. For the second year running, this event, which was held as part of the Hagbournes' Christmas Tree Festival, contributed to around £5000 being raised in aid of St Andrew's church and Albie and Beyond, for Brain Tumour Research. A big thank you also to Meryl and her choir, vOx who led the singing, to members of the Village Association who served refreshments of mince pies and mulled wine, and to Chris and Sue Lay for accommodating us in their farmyard along with a roaring fire pit to help keep us warm!

Margaret Leishman

other news



Snow in West Hagbourne

Parish Council Road Hazards

New Parish Council Elections in May

The current Parish Council consisting of 5 councillors needs to be replaced on 4th May. Any existing councillor can stand again. There will only be an election if more than five people are proposed. Any residents on the electoral roll can stand. For more details please contact the Parish Clerk or an existing councillor. The final date for nominations is in early April.

At the last council meeting the missing crash barrier on Main Street was discussed but I am pleased to report it will be replaced by the County Council. The King's Coronation party was discussed and it was agreed to meet the budget proposed by the Village Association. The issue of horse aware signs was raised and the County Council will be dealing with this.

Recently we were notified by the County Council that a Dawn Redwood tree will be planted on land next to the junction of Main Street and the A417.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 1st March at 7.30pm in the meeting room of Hagbourne Village Hall.

Michael Butler (Chair)

This winter, potholes have been an increasing problem through the village and beyond, as a result of adverse weather and increased traffic. In response to photos posted on the Fix My Street website and sent to the Highways Department, one of the most problematic, near the bends at Coscote, was rapidly fixed. Thanks to Tim for publicising this menace. However, such repairs are often short-lived, so it is important to keep informing the Council when potholes open up.

Another problem this year has been the erosion of the banks along the roadsides, particularly between Coscote and East Hagbourne railway bridge. This seems to result from larger/wider agricultural vehicles meeting the many lorries that are currently using this route to access the building site adjacent to the Village Hall.

Tidy-up



This year the Village Tidy-up will be on Saturday 25th March. Please meet at the bus stop at 10.00. As usual litter pickers, hi-viz waistcoats and bags will be provided. Come along and help to keep our village clean and tidy.

Val Brownsword

Bus Service restored

Good news! Oxfordshire County Council has agreed with Thames Travel to continue operation of the current service 94 timetable up to the end of the academic year at the end of July 2023. This is to ensure there is sufficient time to plan for the replacement service(s).



Road Closure

Many of you will have noticed that Hagbourne Hill was unexpectedly closed on 16th January. The combination of a mains leak and very cold temperatures meant that the road surface became dangerously slippery. This resulted in an accident, and hence the road closure. It



remained closed until the leak had been stopped and the road repaired, on Thursday.

Advertising

This newsletter is currently wholly funded by the modest charge made for advertisements it carries. This covers the cost of the paper and ink used for printing them. With the expansion of the village, we now print 20% more copies than we did two years ago.

This year we have lost two of our advertisers and we are urgently seeking to replace them in order to be able to continue to produce this local resource. If you know anyone who runs a business locally (ads are not restricted to businesses based in West Hagbourne) please encourage them to get in touch via our website.

Nature's Eye

Now that the winter weather is much colder after an unusually warm spell, many of us will be ensuring that our garden wildlife has sufficient food for the winter months. Passerines, such as Great tits and Blue tits are easily catered for with nuts inside wire tubular containers. Seed-impregnated fat balls are also a good winter food. However, if you regularly have Great Spotted Woodpeckers in your garden, it is advisable not to use fat balls contained inside nylon- or wire netting, as their very long tongues can be damaged when they withdraw their beak from the fat.

There have been fewer Goldfinches around the village in the past year or so. If you wish to attract them you will need a special feeder filled with tiny niger seeds, which they extract via 2mm. holes in a transparent plastic tube. Ground feeders such as Dunnocks and Robins can be fed by placing seeds on a wire-mesh tray attached to your bird-feeding station. Alternatively, spread seed underneath small shrubs such as Cotoneaster or Pyracantha, whose berries are eaten by other birds.



Gold finch bird feeder

Wood Mice and Voles are common at the N.W. end of the village and despite their small size, and therefore unfavourable ratio of body surface area to volume, seem to survive the winter well. The few that succumb to the weather are doubtless taken by the ubiquitous red kites

Malcolm Brownsword

HUGS Update

Citizen Science

Did anyone take part in the **RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRD WATCH** at the end of January? If so, you're one of around a million people joining in, providing an enormous source of data that would otherwise not be collected. Taking part really makes a difference to our understanding of changes in bird populations. You can also log in and look back over the last 6 years of your own Bird Watch. Have you seen fewer starlings perhaps and more blue tits and great tits over that time?



Some birds seem to fare much better with climate change so far than others.

And if want to do more, you can join in with many other surveys. If you're interested in flowers and nectar for pollinators, have a look at Plantlife's *Every Flower Counts*:
<https://nomowmay.plantlife.org.uk/kevery-flower-counts/>

This is done on an area of lawn in your garden at the end of No Mow May and again in the beginning of July.

If you remember the 1970s and 80s and the sheer number of insects you could see in the car headlights while driving at night, then take a look at Buglife's Bugs Matter survey:
<https://www.buglife.org.uk/get-involved/surveys/bugs-matter/>

It involves attaching a splatometer on your car's cleaned front registration plate and counting the number of

Planning

P22/S4102/T28:
Extension of approved stable block - West Hagbourne pumping station.

P22/S4303/HH:
Extension linking house and airport at Manor Barn in Foxglove Lane.

P22/S4421/HH:
Demolition of conservatory and construction of extensions at Lizard Bank.

P22/S4604/FUL:
Construction of self build dwelling to replace mobile home at The Studio Lodge, Manor Farm

insects for each trip you make in the car over the summer (photos to be submitted with each journey you record).

If you prefer your insects alive, then Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Watch may be for you:
<https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

This is just 15 minutes of a warm July or August day watching and recording butterflies in your garden or local area.

Not sure where to start? iNaturalist will help identify any species you photograph so you can begin to learn hands-on what nature is living around us:
<https://uk.inaturalist.org/>

So get in touch and tell us what you find!

hugsustainability@gmail.com
www.hugsustainability.org



Parish Council

Clerk

Andrew Wise
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

Councillors

Mike Butler (Chair) 850523
mike.butler@westhagbourne.org

Hugh Lewis 851113
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daniel.tozer@westhagbourne.org

District Councillors

Anne-Marie Simpson
Anne-Marie.Simpson@southoxon.gov.uk

Jane Murphy
jane.murphy@southoxon.gov.uk

County Councillor

Jane Murphy
jane.murphy@southoxon.gov.uk

Council Meetings

These are held in Hagbourne Village Hall - see website for future dates. Minutes of meetings of the Parish Council are available online. If you cannot find them, contact the clerk. If you do not have access to the internet, call the clerk and a printed copy will be sent to you. Shortly before the meeting of the Parish Council, the agenda will be circulated to all those on the list. To comply with legal requirements, a copy of the agenda will also be posted on the PC noticeboard.
www.westhagbourne.org/pc_minutes.htm

Planning updates

If you wish to be notified about planning applications that affect West Hagbourne you can sign up for email alerts.

Contact Andrew Wise:
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

Parish email list

If you wish to be placed on this list, or to check that your entry is correct, please send an email to the Clerk at

parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

HGVs and Potholes

HGVs and potholes are a persistent issue on the roads in the village and beyond. If you can supply a photograph that gives some idea of the extent of a pothole this will help assess the urgency if its repair.

You can do this online at:
fixmystreet.com

Or:
highwaysenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 08453101111

Web site:
www.westhagbourne.org/noticeboard.htm#potholes

HGVs not delivering to an address in the village should be reported to Trading Standards. If possible, you should take a photograph but definitely write down a description and registration number as soon as possible. Reports can be made to:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/trading-standards/weight-restriction-enforcement>

Keep up to date

www.westhagbourne.org

The website carries information, news and contact details as well as copies of the minutes of all village organisations

other news

Lunch Club

It is hoped to re-start the lunch club with a meeting at the George and Dragon, Upton on the fourth Friday of the month. We plan to meet for the first time in our new venue on Friday 24th February at the usual time of 12.30. Get in touch via the website or phone if you want to be added to the mailing group and kept up to date with plans..

Sue Totterdell (850080)



Monthly Meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday in the month at Didcot Civic Hall, starting at 2:30 pm .

2023

21 February: Where do novelists get their ideas from? - Bobbie Darbyshire.

21 March: Cheltenham Racing Heroes, a talk about famous jockeys living in and around Cheltenham - Peter Gill

18 April: Chrissie's Owls - a non-profit organisation committed to the care and conservation of Owls based in Oxfordshire.

16 May: AGM to be held at Great Western Park District Community Centre, Gentian Mews OX11 6GR (opp Costa)

20 June: Oxfordshire on Canvas - Marie Louisa.

if you have a query please email bulletin@didcotu3a.org

Marian Nicholls
Bulletin Coordinator

Advertising

This newsletter is entirely funded by income from the advertisements in it. It is edited by Sue Totterdell, with contributions from a number of villagers, designed by Mary Ann Le May, printed by Hugh Lewis and distributed by a group of volunteers. To ensure that it will be able to continue in its present form we would welcome new advertisers. If you have a business you would like to advertise to residents, please get in touch:
editors@westhagbourne.org

other news

WhatsApp Group

If you would like to join the group, get in touch with Lillie Jamieson (07712 429811).

To be added to the Village email list, contact the Clerk.

Didcot Farmers' Market

This will be held in the Orchard Centre on Saturday 14th March from 8.30am - 1.30pm.

Hagbourne Garden Club

Meetings are held in East Hagbourne Pavilion. For further information email sally.barksfield@gmail.com

other news



Village Shop & PO

Shop:
Mon: 9am - 5pm
Tues/Wed: 9am - 4pm
Thurs: 9am - 5pm
Fri: 9am - 4pm
Sat: 9am - 12.30pm

PO:
Mon: 9am - 12.30pm; 1 - 5pm
Tues/Wed: 9am - 12.30pm
Thurs: 9am - 12.30pm; 1-5pm
Fri/Sat: 9am - 12.30pm

other news

East & West Hagbourne Village Fund

The annual Hagbourne Fun Run raises money for cancer research and for the Fund itself. This is available to support local good causes.

The Tyrrell Trust

The Tyrrell Trust (William Tyrrell Charity) is a charity which helps people in West Hagbourne who are in need.

If you have any news or photos or know of events you think might interest other residents, please contact the editor.

editors@westhagbourne.org

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**AED
Emergency defibrillator**

The West Hagbourne Emergency Defibrillator is located in the Telephone Box in the Square
In the event of an emergency call 999

dronemotion.co.uk
DRONE FILMING & ROOF SURVEYS

Marquees

The Village Association has two Marquees available for hire:
12 x 5 metres & 11 x 4 metres
at a cost of £50 each plus a returnable deposit of £75
Tables and/or chairs are also available at £50 plus a returnable deposit of £75

Please note that the Association will not be responsible for any claims for accidents that may occur during the rental.

For advance booking and details please contact **Robert Griffiths** (Woodleys)-
rob.griff@yahoo.co.uk
All donations go towards our village funds

house to rent in France

Noirmoutier Island, west of Nantes - sleeps 7

just minutes from a quiet family beach, great biking and sailing, two bedrooms, dishwasher, washing machine, TV

600€/week June + September
750€/week July

for more information and photos
contact totterdells@btinternet.com 01235 850080